



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Executive Registry

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Honorable William Colby  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Pursuant to our discussion on October 10, 1973 of your proposal concerning JPRS, we have reviewed the relationship and carefully evaluated the various considerations involved from this Department's standpoint.

I am pleased to report that we are prepared to proceed as you have suggested. When advised that you are ready to move forward, we will notify the limited number of our personnel who will need to be involved to facilitate implementation.

Concerning the background materials and proposed response to public inquiry that you left with me following our meeting, we have taken the liberty of making a few drafting changes that I trust you will find acceptable.

In closing, may I express my appreciation for the courteous, responsive and frank manner in which your personnel responded to inquiries by our General Counsel in the course of his review of this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature, likely of the Secretary of Commerce, is written over the closing. The signature is stylized and appears to read "T. J. ...".

Secretary of Commerce

UNCLASSIFIED

PROPOSED PUBLIC RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO EITHER COMMERCE OR CIA ASKING WHETHER COMMERCE IS COVERING CIA ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN JPRS.

The Department of Commerce and the Central Intelligence Agency have for many years cooperated with each other regarding the collection and processing of foreign intelligence information in those instances where their respective responsibilities or interests are related. This inter-agency cooperation will continue, although how and to what extent is, of course, inappropriate for comment.

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### BACKGROUND STATEMENT - JPRS

The end of World War II marked the beginning of an information explosion in open foreign-language sources (newspapers, periodicals, books), of interest both to the Intelligence Community and to other U.S. Government departments and agencies generally. The launching of Sputnik in 1957 heightened interest in foreign scientific and technological information, an interest shared by the Federal Government, the scientific and academic communities and the public at large. At the same time, foreign publications were multiplying so rapidly that it was beyond the capability of a single Federal agency to translate, with its normal staff, the volume and variety of material involved. Therefore, in 1957 the U.S. Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) was established with a small staff supported by free-lance contract translators to meet the ever increasing demand for translating open foreign-language publications. Since that time, JPRS has performed open-source translation services upon request of any U.S. Government department or agency.

Over the years the JPRS translation program has been broadened to cover a wide spectrum of languages and subject matter. JPRS now has a worldwide subscribership and publishes some 66 regular reports covering political, economic, scientific and sociological developments around the world, that are distributed through the National Technical Information Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The open-source translation program conducted by JPRS plays an essential role in the national intelligence process. As such, it must be directly responsive to the requirements of the Director of Central Intelligence in the discharge of his statutory functions. This requirement can best be met by associating JPRS directly with CIA, to make clear its primary accountability to the Agency. The National Technical Information Service will continue, in the interests of efficiency, to handle public subscriptions for JPRS reports.

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